ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

In a communicating apparatus, telephone or directory application software can be automatically initiated in a personal computer. An off-hook detecting unit of the apparatus continuously makes a check to determine whether or not an external telephone is set to an off-hook state. If this is the case, the off-hook detecting unit sends off-hook information via a serial interface to the computer. An application initiation request unit of the computer monitors the serial interface. Having recognized an off-hook state of the telephone in accordance with the off-hook information, the request unit automatically initiates the directory application software.